

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## CONFIRMATION OF DEBRA ANNE HAALAND

• Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I rise in support of the historic nomination of DEB HAALAND to serve as the next Secretary of the Interior. When confirmed, Congresswoman HAALAND will be the first Native American to serve in a Cabinet position.

DEB HAALAND's nomination to become Secretary of the Interior means so much to the future of this country.

For the historically underrepresented and mistreated indigenous communities of these United States, it means that their experiences and perspectives will be valued and represented at the highest ranks of our Federal Government. This important milestone and this reflection of their stories cannot be overstated.

It means that young Americans and perhaps especially young people in indigenous communities, who put themselves through school, take out student loans, raise children, and run a business, will see their struggles in this nominee and realize that they, too, can work their way to high-ranking government positions.

DEB HAALAND's confirmation means that our country will, after 4 years of neglect and catering to the fossil fuel industry, work again to ensure that our natural resources are conserved for the next generation.

It means that the Federal Government will take swift, meaningful actions to address climate change.

It means that trust and relationships between local communities, Tribes, and the Federal Government will be restored and strengthened.

My Republican colleagues have gone to great lengths to smear Congresswoman HAALAND as an extremist. They point to the commonsense policies and positions that she took while representing her constituents as "radical" and framing her as "outside the mainstream." They are adamantly opposed to President Biden's environmental agenda and, regardless of what DEB HAALAND says in response to their concerns, oppose her because they simply oppose the President's agenda.

If you took them for their word, you would believe that fossil fuels would disappear overnight. You would believe that workers in that industry would immediately lose their jobs, that our

energy grids would become unreliable, that the sky would be falling.

What they don't talk about is how the Department of the Interior is putting a pause on new, not existing, oil and gas leases. A pause.

They don't mention how DEB HAALAND, during her confirmation hearing, repeatedly assured them that the administration will not abandon workers and families in the fossil fuel industry as we transition to clean energy.

They ignored and discounted her repeated commitments to working with Senators and stakeholders in their respective States on issues that they care about.

They don't talk about the impacts of climate change on American communities, how climate change is an environmental justice issue, or the benefits of expanding our country's clean energy production.

Instead, their message is simple—if the nominee is not beholden to the fossil fuel industry, they won't support them.

Yes, President Biden's environmental agenda is bold. His commitments to addressing climate change, which he identified as a crisis, are strong.

We as a country cannot afford to continue with the fossil fuel extracting, carbon emitting status quo.

We cannot keep burying our heads in the sand and kicking the can down the road, expecting our children and grandchildren to clean up our messes.

President Biden committed to tackling some of the greatest challenges of our lifetime, and he named climate change as one of the four great crises of our time.

Major changes will need to happen including our old ways of thinking. We need to be bold, innovative, and think outside the box.

As our country takes on these issues, challenges and opportunities are inevitable. By having DEB HAALAND at the helm of Interior, I know that our local communities from Hawaii, to Alaska, to Maine, and everywhere in between, will have a Secretary willing to listen, a Secretary who will take the time to understand their issues.

Our country can successfully transition from overreliance on fossil fuels, increase our clean energy production, protect our environment, and make real progress on climate change by working together.

Mr. President, a family emergency has kept me from being in attendance for today's vote. If I were present, I would have voted to confirm DEB HAALAND as Secretary of the Interior. It is not only a historic vote but one of hope. I urge my colleagues to join me in my support.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for a vote on

March 15, 2021, so I could return to Hawaii to tend to a family matter.

On March 15, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation of DEBRA ANNE HAALAND to be Secretary of the Interior, rollcall vote 119.●

## ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-24 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Germany for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.77 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-24

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Germany.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$1.10 billion.  
Other \$.67 billion.  
Total \$1.77 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Five (5) P-8A Patrol Aircraft.  
Nine (9) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems 5 (MIDS JTIRS 5).

Twelve (12) LN-251 with Embedded Global Positioning Systems (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs).

Non-MDE: Also included are commercial engines; Tactical Open Mission Software (TOMS); Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared MX-20HD; AN/AAQ-2(V) I Acoustic System; AN/APY-10 radar; ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures; NexGen Missile Warning Sensors; AN/PRC-117G Manpack radios include